

# Protecting and Promoting the Health of the Community is made possible with the support of our many partners.



JOHN REED, M.D.

**From John Reed, M.D.  
President, Lancaster County Medical Society**

As a life-long Lincoln resident, I am well aware of the positive impact the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department (LLCHD) has made over the years in their efforts to increase the safety and health of our residents. Traditionally, the LLCHD has fulfilled their mission by creating partnerships and facilitating collaborative efforts.

As President of the Lancaster County Medical Society (LCMS), I am proud of the collaborative efforts we have participated

in this past year. The medication assistance program, known as the Grapevine Project, is an example of one long-term partnership that provides medications for individuals without prescription coverage. We are also proud to be an active partner of the School Community Tobacco Prevention Program, the Colon Cancer Awareness Coalition, and the Advisory Committee organized to place Automatic External Defibrillators throughout our community. We are also one of many agencies participating with the health department project designed to develop citywide standards for prevention, screening, education and treatment of diabetes. In addition, we recently worked closely with the health department leadership to address the community concern related to limited flu vaccine.

The physicians of the LCMS are very proud to serve the citizens of Lincoln and Lancaster County. However, we readily recognize as individuals' practitioners we are unable to address all the issues of access to medical care and affordable medications. We need the of the LLCHD to address these and other public health concerns our community faces.

The leadership provided by the LLCHD in promoting environmental and personal health is a valuable community resource. However, their leadership can only be effective if we as citizens follow their lead. I encourage each of you to read this annual report carefully. Identify areas of personal interest and think about how you can help create a safer and healthier Lincoln.



**Lancaster County physicians are dedicated to assuring access to health care for all populations regardless of the barriers. This continues to be evident in their involvement in the Access Medicaid Program.**

Access Medicaid provides outreach, enrollment and education services for over 18,000 Lancaster County residents participating in the Nebraska Medicaid Managed Care Program. Access Medicaid is a family/client and physician-centered service delivery system utilizing technology and public health principles to foster improved health outcomes through access, coordination of care and outreach activities.

**Percent of clients  
satisfied with  
the enrollment  
process through  
Access Medicaid:**

YEAR	PERCENTAGE
2001-2002	94%
2002-2003	93%
2003-2004	95%

## Home & Community Based Nursing Services

The DOUGLAS Plan (in memory of Carole Douglas), was developed by Creighton students working with LLCHD Public Health Nurses (PHNs). Many women are unaware that preparation for optimum health prior to conception increases positive birth outcomes. The project goal is to improve the knowledge of women about healthy lifestyle choices prior to conception through presentations and informational handouts. The DOUGLAS Plan fits well with the work being done by PHNs, targeting pregnant women and children at risk for poor birth/health outcomes. Last year, 957 pregnant women and 758 newborns/infants received home visits, case management, nursing assessments, education (including prenatal and breast feeding information and growth and development of newborns/infants), and referrals. The data collected over the past year shows a 6% increase in the number of infants born at normal birth weight to those pregnant women receiving five or more home visits. In addition, Public Health Nurses making home visits to high risk pregnant clients have demonstrated a 38% success rate in convincing the women who smoke to quit during their pregnancy.



CATHERINE ALLEY, DDS

**From Catherine Alley, D.D.S.  
Periodontist and Board of Health Member**

While oral health is extremely important to the overall health and well being of everyone, it doesn't always receive the attention that it should. Many individuals tend to have the perception that oral health is less important and separate from overall health. Therefore, I appreciate the Health Department's effort to bring dental health and nutrition to the forefront as integral components of other department and community programs. These programs address community health issues such as physical activity, obesity, cardiovascular disease and diabetes.

To accomplish the work of the Division of Dental Health and Nutrition Services, staff continue to strive for the development of strong community collaboration and partnerships. These partnerships include;

- UNMC College of Dentistry
- Lincoln District Dental Association
- Lincoln Medical Education Partnership
- UNL County Extension
- Areas schools and Community Learning Centers such as Elliott, Pershing/Mickle, Everett, West Lincoln, Lefler, Goodrich, and Lakeview
- Community Centers such as Carol Yoakum Family Resource Center, "F" Street Community Center, and Cedars Youth Services/Northbridge Community Center
- Lincoln Action Program
- People's Health Center
- Matt Talbot Kitchen
- Family Service
- LPS HeadStart
- NEHSS WIC Program